

The Alexandria Gazette

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4 For 21 Americans

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All United States nationals imprisoned in Cuba are now released. Those Americans who remain are there by choice. The slate is clean. For the first time since Fidel Castro showed his true colors and began to turn his revolution into a Communist police state, there are no Americans in Cuba suffering the effects.

The bait for freeing 21 American nationals was not, as in the case of the 1100 survivors of the Bay of Pigs invasion, a huge ransom in money and much needed drugs. Nor, as in the case of their relatives, was it their homes and all their belongings, which they left behind to fly to freedom.

This was a human exchange, negotiated by the same New York lawyer who has been so successful both with Castro and Khrushchev. James B. Donovan, who started these exchanges by freeing U. S. U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Col. Abel, the Soviet spy, traded the freedom of 21 Americans for that of 4 Cubans:

The one whose release raised an outcry was Francisco (the Hook) Molina del Rio, a Castro supporter. During a shooting fray in Harlem with anti-Castro elements, a stray shot fired by Molina killed a 9-year-old girl. He was freed from a life sentence at the written request of the Justice Department, and deported to Cuba with the provision that if he ever returns, he will have to serve out his prison term.

The other three exchanges were a member of Cuba's United Nations delegation and two native Cubans, one a naturalized citizen of the United States, who were held in \$50,000 bail each under federal grand jury indictments charging them with a sabotage conspiracy to blow up defense and utility installations in the metropolitan area.

Many Americans did not like paying millions to Castro as ransom for the Bay of Pigs prisoners. They will not like this latest trade in human beings. But conditions left the negotiator little choice. Now that all to whom we had a responsibility are out of Cuba we should start to exert pressure on Castro and regain the initiative to lead the Cuban Revolution, which we have frittered away by our inaction.